

March 28, 2007

Walter McNutt, Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
Montana State Legislature
State Capitol Building Rm. 472
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman McNutt,

I am writing to inform you of some important information regarding Senate Joint Resolution 20, due before your committee on Wednesday, March 28, 2007.

During the dates of February 23-27, 2007, Montanans for a Healthy Climate commissioned a poll through Harstad Strategic Research, Inc. to gather information on the same topic before you in SJ20 – a federal cap on carbon dioxide emissions.

The results of the poll could not be more clear. Citing global warming and climate change as the number one environmental concern of today (responses volunteered, no possible answers given), the poll of 504 Montana voters shows broad-based support for federal action to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

In fact, as can be seen in the attached memo by pollster Paul Harstad, nearly two-thirds of Montanans (63%) support the idea of a federal cap-and-trade system. Only 26% oppose such an idea.

More importantly, the poll shows that a substantial portion of the minority who remain skeptical about anthropogenic warming still support a federal cap. The potential benefit to wind power development and a new energy future leads the way for this support, followed closely by the concern for the livelihood of future generations. It can thus be concluded that potential impacts from global warming are not the only reason to support market-based limits on greenhouse gas emissions, and that positive economic implications should also play a key role in your decision.

Furthermore, support for a federal cap on CO2 supercedes any and all political, ideological, and geographic boundaries. According to the poll results, a majority of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents favor the proposal, as do those living in urban and rural settings alike.

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In conclusion, this recent poll demonstrates that, for various reasons, the citizens of Montana support the fundamental principles of a federal cap on greenhouse gas emissions. Senate Joint Resolution 20, if passed, would convey this message of the people to our delegation in Washington, DC.

Regardless of your personal stance on the issue of climate change, the policy position represented by this resolution is supported by, and would be beneficial for, the people of Montana. I would be more than willing to convey any further information should you so desire.

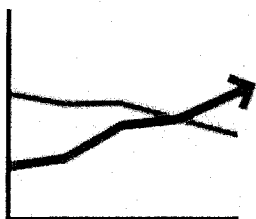
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diego Rivas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Diego Rivas
Montanans for a Healthy Climate

enclosure: Harstad Strategic Research, Inc. Polling Memo



HARSTAD STRATEGIC RESEARCH, INC.

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To: Interested Parties
From: Paul Harstad and Chris Keating, *Harstad Strategic Research, Inc.*
Date: March 24, 2007
Re: Voter Opinion on Global Warming in Montana

MONTANA VOTERS TAKE GLOBAL WARMING SERIOUSLY AND FAVOR A CARBON CAP AND TRADE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

HARSTAD STRATEGIC RESEARCH conducted a telephone survey of 504 Montana voters from February 23 to 27, 2007. The margin of error associated with a sample of this type is plus-or-minus 4.4% at the 95% confidence level.

The survey shows that clear majorities of Montanans side with those who take the global warming problem seriously.

- A majority of Montana voters consider global warming to be a serious problem. Fully, 56% of voters say that global warming is a *very* (35%) or *fairly* (21%) *serious* problem. Another 27% consider it *just somewhat serious*, while only 15% dismiss it as *not serious at all*.
- Nearly two-thirds of Montana voters favor a carbon emissions cap and trade proposal to reduce carbon emissions in the United States. When voters hear a detailed description of the carbon emissions cap and trade proposal, a 63% majority favor the proposal versus 26% who oppose it. The description of the carbon cap and trade proposal is as follows:

The US Government would require reductions of carbon emissions by placing a mandatory limit, called a carbon cap, on carbon emissions from large industrial sources such as power plants, refineries, and large manufacturers. It would also create a market for those carbon reductions by allowing anyone who can reduce emissions - big factories or small businesses and farmers -- to sell emissions credits into that market. A company could combine its own emission reductions, plus those it bought from others, to meet its overall obligation. That way everyone would have an incentive to find ways to cut carbon emissions.

- Support for this carbon cap and trade proposal is broad based. It includes an overwhelming majority of Democrats (75% favor the proposal) and clear majorities of Independents (60% favor the proposal) and Republicans (56% favor the proposal). Support for the proposal is equally high among voters in urban and rural counties (63% and 62% respectively).

When it comes to the issue of climate change or global warming, pluralities of Montana voters side with activists on the issue.

- Montana voters identify global warming as the number one environmental problem. When asked to volunteer the top environmental problem or issue today, 35% of Montanans say *global warming / carbon emissions*. This focus on climate change exceeds the priority given to other environmental problems like *air pollution* (cited by 23%) or *water pollution* (cited by 22%) that have been recognized by the public for more than thirty years.
- By 46% to 37%, Montana voters attribute global warming more to *human activity such as burning fossil fuels* rather than to *the normal cycles in the earth's environment*.
- When it comes to global warming, 42% of voters say the greater risk is *not going far enough with environmental protections and suffering serious consequences from global warming such as drought, more intense forest fires and economic disruptions*, compared to 38% who say the greater risk is *going too far with environmental regulations that might hurt Montana's coal industry*.